

# e-Bugle

Garrett Bugle Internet Edition

Volume 57

July 2010

No. 7



## Calendar

Fri., June 25	Pick up your July <i>Bugle</i> in Penn Place Lobby; Film Society, Town Hall, 8 pm: <i>Black Stallion</i>	Sat., Aug. 21	Annual family crab feast at the pool, 4 pm
Sun., June 27	Grosvenor Market Day, Pool, 12–2 pm	Fri., Aug. 27	Garrett Park Elementary open house at Grosvenor Elementary for students/parents to meet teachers, 2–3 pm
Thurs., July 1	Casual Music Jam, Town Hall, 8 pm	Mon., Aug. 30	Start of public school for the year
Fri., July 2	Fiscal year end barbecue, Town Hall, 1 pm (p 6, Sweet & Sour)	Thurs., Sept. 2	Casual Music Jam, Town Hall, 8 pm
Sat., July 3	GIVES, Penn Place, 9 am–1 pm; Pooch Parade, 10 am (see p 4)	Sat., Sept. 4	GIVES, Penn Place, 9 am–1 pm
Sun., July 4	4th of July activities (see article, p 4; poster, p 8)	Mon., Sept. 6	Labor Day; no trash pickup; Pool closes
Sat., July 10	Large item pickup; Adult Party at the Pool, 7 pm	Fri., Sept. 10	Film Society, Town Hall, 8 pm: <i>The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill</i>
Mon., July 12	Town Council meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm	Mon., Sept. 13	Town Council Meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm
Thurs., July 15	Swimming Pool Assoc. Mtg., Pool, 7:30 pm; Casual Music Jam, Town Hall, 8 pm	Tues., Sept. 14	Lunch Bunch, Town Hall, 12:30 pm; deadline for <i>Bugle</i> , 4 pm
Thurs., July 22	Games and Tea, Town Hall, 1:30–4 pm; Land Use Task Force Mtg., Town Hall, 8 pm	Wed., Sept. 22	Citizens Assoc. Meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm (topic TBA)
Wed., July 28	Citizens Assoc. Meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm (topic TBA)	Thurs., Sept. 23	Games and Tea, Town Hall, 1:30–4 pm; Land Use Task Force Mtg., Town Hall, 8 pm
Thurs., Aug. 5	Casual Music Jam, Town Hall, 8 pm	Fri., Sept. 24	Pick up your October <i>Bugle</i> at the PO
Sat., Aug. 7	GIVES, Penn Place, 9 am–1 pm	Thurs., Sept. 30	Casual Music Jam, Town Hall, 8 pm
Mon., Aug. 9	No Town Council Meeting		

## Midnight in the Arboretum of Good and Evil

The heavily attended June Town Council meeting went late, and the proceedings confirmed, among other things, that trees are our enemies as much as they are our friends.

I mean, mainly they're our friends. Tons of people came out to insist that two willow oaks on Oxford near the elementary school must not be cut down. (The county is talking about taking them down in order to install water use equip-

ment for the renovated school.) One after another, Garrett Parkers—and one Parkside resident who for decades has appreciated our town's canopy—came to the microphone and spoke.

"This is an unnecessary destruction of a part of town that has a lot to do with Garrett Park being what Garrett Park is."

"Those oaks were planted in commemoration of those who fell in World War One."

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Chuck Berry presented a solution that involves installing the equipment at a different location.

The Mayor said that no decision has been made on the issue. In answer to a citizen’s question, he said that the trees are not on the Historic Register.

The town showed extraordinary fervor and unanimity in defense of the oaks, and reminded your reporter why Garrett Park grows more beautiful every year.

Yet shortly after this inspiring moment, Hans Wegner reported that the roots of our mature trees are slowly destroying our sidewalks. And this put me in mind of various treefalls we’ve had in the last few weeks... From above and below, The Trees (*cue Hitchcock music*) are encroaching...

The meeting began with a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance for Flag Day (some citizens refused to say under God, which messed up the unison) and proceeded to a petition presented by Mandy Mader for speed bumps on lower Rokeby (the Council seemed happy to oblige).

Tara Flynn of the nursery school/community center reported lots of good news. “We’re in extremely good shape on cash. We now beseech the Council to reach a decision on ownership of the property so that we can proceed with construction work.”

The Mayor responded that “we learned today the Board of Education will extinguish the 1948 covenant restricting construction on the property.” Other elements of the deal seem to be falling into place as well. Indeed, the Council then passed a motion to acquire the community center and take ownership, subject to approval of the lease. The vote was met with applause.

Chief Judge Judy Heyman now took the stand to describe town election procedures, a work in progress. She began by stating that of course election workers and town employees involved in elections must be impartial. Further, all persons eligible to vote should be encouraged to take part in the election process.

As to the sad condition of our voter rolls (“They’re a mess”), the Mayor noted that maintenance of the rolls is the job of the county.

Judy (who gave your reporter’s little sister an IQ test 40 years ago) proposed moving subsequent town elections from the Post Office to the Town Hall—a quieter, more orderly setting.

She concluded, “We’ve tried to clean this up as much as we can, given that none of us has a clue as to what we’re doing.”

The Council also discussed our need for an ordinance to formalize the Town Archives and to establish the Archives Committee. How do we want to conceive of the Committee’s role? Various suggestions were made, by Councilmembers and by citizens, about how long a term committee

members’ appointments should run, what sorts of things we want the Archives to encompass, etc.

By this point it was very late—not midnight, but late enough that your reporter had to leave. She went outside to brave the trees.

Margaret Soltan

## Voter Registration

Now is a good time to register to vote or to update your name or address information with the Board of Elections. You can download a form from the Montgomery County MD Board of Elections web site ([montgomerycountymd.gov/eletmpl.asp?url=/content/elections/index.asp](http://montgomerycountymd.gov/eletmpl.asp?url=/content/elections/index.asp)), which you can then sign and mail in, or you can pick up a Voter Registration card in the Post Office and mail it in. Your registration or update must be received by August 24 in order to vote in the Maryland primary. Please note that you are not registered to vote until you receive a voter notification card from the Board of Elections. Changes to your registration information are also not effective until you receive your notification card.

Janet Wegner

## Green Again

We’re green again courtesy of the Friends of Jane de Winter, who is running for County Council. She gets her own copy to keep abreast of the doings in Garrett Park, and has worked tirelessly with Garrett Park Elementary over the years. So thanks to her, and best of luck in her campaign.

If you haven’t been getting hold of your copy, and just can’t remember to pick it up at the PO, you can subscribe for a copy to be mailed to you First Class each month. Just get in touch with Jane Salomon.

With this, the *Bugle* goes on vacation for the summer. If you do anything spectacular during your vacation and wouldn’t mind sharing, let me know for our next issue. Our staff has shrunk considerably since we aren’t folding for the Post Office any more, but we still wish our folders all the best, and give thanks that they are around when we do need them. Have a good summer.

Mary Moyer

The *Garrett Bugle* is a publication of the Citizens Association of Garrett Park, published 10 times a year. Publication of the *Bugle* is supported by member dues. All residents of Garrett Park are members of the Citizens Association. Yearly dues (\$20 per family or \$10 per individual per address) can be sent to Citizens Association, Box 456, Garrett Park, MD 20896.

**Citizens Association Officers:**  
President: Chris Strong ([Chris.s.strong@gmail.com](mailto:Chris.s.strong@gmail.com))  
Co-Vice-Presidents: Todd Harris and Mario Grande  
Treasurer: Lara Hines  
Secretary: Leslie Bethke-Pope  
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First-class subscriptions cost \$15 (bulk mail subscriptions are no longer available). Letters to the editor can be submitted by mail or hand to *Bugle* staff or by e-mail through the town Web site: [www.garrettpark-md.gov/submit-BugleArticle.php](http://www.garrettpark-md.gov/submit-BugleArticle.php). The editor reserves the right to edit submissions for length and clarity. Unsigned letters will not be printed.

# Town Administrator Notes

**Be Safe and Secure:** There have been a disconcerting number of fraudulent solicitations for business (landscaping, window cleaning, and the like) by individuals going door to door in the last few weeks. There have even been two instances of individuals representing themselves as Washington Gas employees. Please, do not open your door to strangers, especially if you are in your home alone. Any legitimate solicitor will have a Montgomery County permit, which you should ask to see. If anyone makes you feel unsafe, call 911; if you see suspicious activity, call the police non-emergency number, 301-279-8000. Check the town Web site for up-to-date information, detailed advice, and additional police contact information.

**Summer Traffic:** With summer here and school out, there will be more people, especially children, walking around town—many going to and coming from the swimming pool and Cambria Park. Along Clermont Avenue running down the hill and up again to Montrose Avenue, it is easy to gain speed once you have passed over the speed bump! So drivers need to be careful here, as this is the main route to the pool for residents on the north side of town.

**Lyme Disease:** We are hearing reports of a number of people coming down with this tick-borne illness in recent months. As everyone with a garden knows, there are quite a large number of deer in Garrett Park, and they are the primary host for ticks, but your pets that go outside also will carry them. Ticks looking for a meal will hang out on the underside of plant leaves, grab-

bing on to passing warm-blooded animals (you!), climb to a convenient place on the body, and dig in. Digging in takes a while, so regular checking of yourself, your children, and your pets will often allow removal of ticks before they start feeding. You might consider having your pets vaccinated. Town maintenance staff regularly cut back vegetation along the various paths through town parks, but vigilance is always a good policy. For more information, you could check out the following Web sites: [www.lymediseaseassociation.org](http://www.lymediseaseassociation.org) or [www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/lyme](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/lyme).

**Large Item Collection:** There will be a large item collection Saturday, July 10.

**Trash & Recycling:** Check the town Web site for complete information. If Monday is a holiday, trash is collected on Thursday, recycling on Wednesday, and yard waste on the next Monday.

**Yard Waste:** Please remember to bundle your yard waste or place it in paper bags. Large limbs, sod, dirt, or stones are not collected. After a storm when there is widespread tree damage throughout the town, the maintenance staff will collect and chip branches brought to the roadside. Please place them butt-end out and not higgledy-piggledy in a pile. This will make it much easier for the crew. However, a private contractor must deal with any major limb-fall or tree loss on your property.

As always, the Town Office will assist you in any way possible.

Ted Pratt, Town Administrator

## GPES

The doors for classes closed on June 15 after 57 years of instruction in the school. With a final clap-out for the departing 5th graders, the students headed off for their summer vacations. This was a day earlier than the rest of the county schools, and was the result of the need for extra time for the teachers to pack up their accumulation of teaching materials. The tentative date for the start of the destruction of the current older building is July 26. The new addition of three years ago will remain, and become the lynchpin of the new building. Does anyone know if there is a cornerstone to the 1953 building, and where it is? We would like to save it if possible.

Next year will bring some big changes. Everyone will be bused to the holding school, Grosvenor Elementary. Because of transportation concerns, the school hours will change to 9:05 am to 3:30 pm. The path to Metro through the school grounds will be inaccessible. The open house at Grosvenor will be August 27 from 2 to 3 pm, and the first day of school Monday, August 30. The Grosvenor address is 5701 Grosvenor Lane, Bethesda, MD 20814. We're not sure about the phone number changing.

The PTA is looking for volunteers for the Cultural Arts Committee. This committee helps find and book artists for school assemblies and residency programs. Contact Dawn Watkins-Chow if you have questions or would like to volunteer.

Mary Moyer

### Services for Seniors

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# Citizens Association News

*July 4 Parade.* Thank you to everyone who submitted suggestions for the theme for Garrett Park's 2010 July 4 parade. The theme selected is *Saluting Our Heroes*.

The schedule of events for the day is as follows:

- 7:30 am Fun Run registration at Penn Place parking lot (all ages)
- 8:00 am 2-mile Fun Run/Walk begins
- 10:15 am Register for Parade at Garrett Park Elementary School
- 11:00 am Parade steps off

After the parade there will be a ceremony to give awards to parade participants. Garrett Park's own "Border State" will play original music and country rock hits, and the Citizens Association will offer hot dogs and burgers for sale for \$2 each and sodas for \$1.

In the afternoon, the festivities continue:

- 1-4 pm Games at Garrett Park Pool
- 3 pm 18th Annual Softball Game at GPES (Garrett Park vs. Garrett Park Estates)

These events require a lot of work to pull off. The Citizens Association is looking for volunteers to help. How about being a parade judge or helping to sell hot dogs and hamburgers after the parade? Please e-mail Kathryn Mitchell at [kmitchell@audubonnaturalist.org](mailto:kmitchell@audubonnaturalist.org) if you would like to volunteer to judge the event. Please e-mail Leslie Bethke-Pope if you are available to help with registration and/or help sell food after the parade.

We are in need of convertibles for use in transporting the parade dignitaries. If you have a convertible that can be used in the parade, please contact Chris Strong at [Chris.s.strong@gmail.com](mailto:Chris.s.strong@gmail.com). Thank you!

*Garrett Park listserv.* To join this electronic forum, which allows neighbors to communicate information about town concerns, safety issues,

upcoming events, and recommended services, e-mail Todd Harris or sign in at [groups.yahoo.com/group/GarrettParkneighbors/join](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GarrettParkneighbors/join).

*Questions or comments for the Citizens Association?* If so, please send a note to P.O. Box 456 or e-mail Chris Strong ([Chris.s.strong@gmail.com](mailto:Chris.s.strong@gmail.com)).

## 4th Annual Pooch Parade

It's time for Garrett Park's annual "putting on the dog"! This year's parade takes place on Saturday, July 3, at 10 am. Co-sponsored by the Women's Club and the Citizens Association, the parade kicks off at 10 am at the intersection of Kenilworth and Strathmore Avenues, follows Waverly Avenue, and concludes at the Penn Place basketball court, where the dogs will be awarded prizes in a variety of fun categories. Last year, 18 dogs marched. Let's exceed that number this year!

Parade participants, please assemble at 9:45 am at 10906 Kenilworth (the Harrises' front lawn). No advance registration is required. Refreshments for humans and dogs will be served at Penn Place.

Contact Jean Horan if you would like to volunteer or have questions.

**FOR SALE:** The town's 1993 Chevrolet 1500 pickup truck, with 76,500 miles. It has a rebuilt transmission (2009). Otherwise, it has wear and tear commensurate with its years of faithful service to the town and is being sold "as seen and approved" without any warranty of any sort. Sealed bids should be mailed (P.O. Box 84, Garrett Park, MD 20896) or delivered (4600 Waverly Avenue, top floor) to the Garrett Park Town Office to arrive no later than 2 pm, Friday, July 12. Questions can be directed to Town Administrator Ted Pratt at the above address or 301-933-7488.

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# Jobs List

The Town Office maintains a list of young people interested in doing odd jobs, which is

reproduced below. Please call those on the list if you need any of the services offered.

Please see the list in the printed *Bugle* or call the Town Office. It is the *Bugle's* policy not to include private telephone numbers, private e-mail addresses, or names of minor children in the *e-Bugle*.

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## This Year's Graduates

We are pleased to recognize this year's crop of graduates. If we missed someone, please let us know before the September 14 *Bugle* deadline.

### High School graduates

- Dylan Berry: Georgetown Prep; will take a gap year in Hawaii to work in organic farming, and will then attend the University of North Carolina
- Joe Gott: Walter Johnson, Certificate of Merit for Community Service; will attend Montgomery College
- Max Hamel: Walter Johnson; will attend Bard College in New York
- Jackie Joseph: Walter Johnson; will attend the College of Charleston, South Carolina in the Honors Program
- Marie Miller: Walter Johnson; will attend Stanford in California
- Andrew Tollefson: Walter Johnson; will attend North Carolina state, where he will swim with the Wolfpack team while studying

### College graduates

- Andrew Keppel: BA biology and environmental studies from St. Mary's College of Maryland; is working at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center as a lab tech
- Elias Schwartzman: BS biology from Oberlin in Ohio; looking for a job in science
- Rachel Shuck: BS biology, summa cum laude; will go to University of Maryland School of Medicine

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## Film Society News

The Garrett Park Film Society (GPFS) is taking a break this summer and will be back in September with a documentary for the whole family, entitled *The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill*.

For those who missed it, in May, the film society held a blind wine tasting to parallel the theme of the movie *Bottle Shock*. White and red wines were tasted from three different countries, and participants did their best to identify country of origin, grape varietal (type of wine), and price range, and to describe the wines. The tasting was a huge success, and all enjoyed filling out scorecards, testing their knowledge, and learning a little bit about wine.

Favorites of the crowd at the *Bottle Shock* tasting were, for the white wine, 2009 Zolo Torrontes (Mendoza), Argentina; and for reds, 2007 Bodegas Juan Gil Jumilla Monastrell, Spain, and 2004 Amici Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon, California. A full list of all wines offered during the tasting—complete with source information, prices, and tasting notes—has been posted on the Film Society's Web page: [www.garrettpark-md.gov/c/281/film-society](http://www.garrettpark-md.gov/c/281/film-society).

Suzanne Grefsheim

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- ♪ Taunton Paine is on a summer fellowship at Columbia University, studying arms control and nonproliferation treaties. He's halfway through a dual master's degree in international and world history; he finished the first year at Columbia, and will be spending next year at the London School of Economics.
- ♪ Our Town Staff (Ted, Butch, Elizabeth, Frank, and Jose) invite everyone to their annual "We Survived the Fiscal Year" barbecue at the Town Hall on Friday, July 2. They start serving at 1 pm and go until they run out of people or food (usually around 3 to 3:30). On the menu: Butch's famous potato salad; all kinds of sausage kabobs; burgers, of course (veggie burgers, too); jerk chicken; Ted's wonderful Chinese chicken wings; red beans and rice; corn; salad;

chips; and ice cream. No RSVP needed, and no rain date—if it rains they'll cook in the rain and serve inside the Town Hall.

- ♪ *Bugle* editor Barbara Collier, husband Jonathan Paul, and Carol Ballentine are trying to resign themselves to the impending loss of the magnificent elm outside their house, which is doomed because of a vertical crack along the main trunk, as well as signs of rot. Late neighbor Bob Frost told the homeowners that he had personally saved the tree from destruction years ago, when all the other elms on Montrose Avenue were cut down because they were suffering from Dutch elm disease. He pointed out that this particular tree was perfectly healthy, and it was spared to provide a shade canopy for several more decades.

### Rides for Seniors

Please see the printed *Bugle* or contact the Town Office for the list of residents who have offered to give rides to seniors to or from doctor appointments as might be needed. Keep the list handy by your telephone or on your refrigerator.

Please give our volunteers as much notice as possible to facilitate your arrangements.

If you want to add your name to the list, please call Elizabeth Henley in the Town Office, 301-933-7488.

It is the *Bugle's* policy not to include private telephone numbers, private e-mail addresses, or names of minor children in the *e-Bugle*.

### Alert

*Please place this information by your telephone or on your refrigerator.* In recent weeks Garrett Park residents have reported a remarkable influx of door-to-door solicitations at varying times of day and evening, including up to 8 pm.

For your own safety, remember the following.

1. Never open your door to a stranger at any time of day or night.
2. Call 911 immediately if you feel threatened in any way by someone at your door or on your property.
3. Call the police nonemergency telephone number to report any suspicious behavior you see: 301-279-8000. Note any personal details that could be helpful to police such as height, weight, coloring, identifying features (scars, limps); or car color, make, license numbers.
4. After you have called the appropriate police number, then contact Detective Sarit Scott (301-657-0144, [Sarit.Scott@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:Sarit.Scott@montgomerycountymd.gov)).
5. Call the GP Town Office to report your suspicion or an event: 301-933-7488.

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## Letter from the Mayor

An exceptional opportunity is presented by the Town Council's June vote to accept the offer by the Montgomery County Parks Department to transfer ownership of the Community Center to the town. We can now apply the same spirit and energy that inspired Garrett Park residents in the late 1940's to establish this resource for the town. Check the front of your new GP/GPE Directory for the story of this history-filled building; it is a testament to the vision and cooperative spirit of mid-twentieth century Garrett Park. We may not be able to contribute in the same fashion—by wielding hammers and saws—but we can participate in the success of this venture by continuing to donate to the Nursery School's fundraising efforts and otherwise supporting the renovation of this town asset.

Over the summer, look for the start of several initiatives under a "Project Safe Walk" program to make walking in Garrett Park more pleasant and safe. As you know, the Garrett Park Elementary School will be closed until the rebuilt school opens in 2011. For the next school year, students in Garrett Park who previously walked or biked to school will instead walk to bus stops where they will be picked up for transport to the temporary GPES. We will work with Montgomery County Public Schools, local parents, and residents to identify safe locations—preferably off-street—for students to wait for their buses. We will also look closely at short-term repairs and improvements to existing sidewalks and possible replacement of some segments of sidewalk. Somewhat longer term, we will investigate rebuilding the Kenilworth sidewalk between Strathmore and Oxford, together with the sidewalk along Oxford from Kenilworth to the school. Our aim would be to have a better sidewalk in place in time for the opening of the new GPES. But, as noted by Councilmember Hans Wegner, the rebuilding of Garrett Park sidewalks is often a great chal-

lenge, given limited width of right-of-way, the presence of mature trees, and the occasional need to substantially widen the sidewalk to meet current ADA standards and other requirements. However, the safety and convenience of all pedestrians—most especially our younger residents—demands that we explore these possibilities.

Something that we can do more immediately is to make it safer to walk in those areas that do not have sidewalks. Walking in the roadway is an established tradition in Garrett Park—sometimes even on stretches that have sidewalks! But the streets of town are not as quiet and bucolic as they once were, so we should do what we can to enhance the safety of those who walk in the roadway. Over the summer the town would like to work with residents to improve walking safety in those areas without sidewalks. Where people walk in the street, safety and ease of walking can be enhanced by removing overgrowth that spills into the roadway thus narrowing the space available to be shared by cars and pedestrians. Similarly, overgrowth near corners can obstruct sight lines, creating danger for both pedestrians and drivers. Those of us who live at intersections owe our walking neighbors care in ensuring that sight lines at corners are not impaired by dense plantings. For example, at a corner where the adjacent roadways are heavily used by children walking to and from the pool and the new Cambria playground, the street trees have been elevated so that walkers have a better view of traffic and drivers can more easily see pedestrians. Similar improvements can be made at other corners and locations in town, both by the town and by adjacent residents. Please call the Town Office if you need assistance in identifying or carrying out work that can be done in the right-of-way adjacent to your property and that will enhance pedestrian safety.

I wish you all a very pleasant summer.

Chris Keller

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## "Saluting Our Heroes"- the theme

7:30AM FUN RUN REGISTRATION AT PENN PLACE

8:00AM 2 MILE FUN RUN / WALK, BEGINS

10:15AM REGISTER FOR PARADE AT ELEM. SCHOOL

11:00AM PARADE STEPS OFF

AFTER PARADE, AWARDS FOR PARADE PARTICIPANTS

MUSIC BY GARRETT PARK'S OWN "BORDER STATE"

HOT DOGS, BURGERS, SODAS - FOR SALE

1:-4 PM GAMES AT GARRETT PARK POOL

4:30 PM 18TH ANNUAL SOFTBALL GAME - G.P.E.S.